United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General attends signing of Israel/PLO Peace Agreement in Washington D.C.; met on Friday with Permanent Observer of Palestine to United Nations who delivered message from PLO Chairman stressing United Nations role in implementation of agreement.

+ Security Council urges Government of Mozambique and RENAMO to ensure that momentum towards implementing General Peace Agreement is maintained; encourages parties to continue direct talks.

+ Liberia peace process poses special opportunity for United Nations, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council; proposed Observer Mission would be first United Nations peace-keeping operation undertaken in cooperation with mission set up by another organization.

+ Special Envoy for Georgia defers Geneva peace negotiations until later this month because of problems with application of cease-fire Agreement signed by Republic of Georgia and forces in Abkhazia on 27 July.

+ Three United States Quick Reaction Force soldiers injured in attack by General Aideed's militia near UNOSOM II headquarters in Mogadishu.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today attended the signing by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) of a Peace Agreement in Washington D.C. The Secretary-General also attended a luncheon for dignitaries attending the ceremony, before returning to New York.

On Friday, the Secretary-General received the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, Nasser Al-Kidwa, who delivered a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat formally informing him of the Agreement. The message stressed the importance that the PLO attached to United Nations' participation in the implementation of any peace accord betweenitself and Israel.

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The Security Council this afternoon urged the Government of Mozambique and the Resistência Nacional Moçambicano (RENAMO) to ensure that the momentum towards fully implementing the General Peace Agreement they signed last year be maintained, so that a just and lasting peace in Mozambique could be established. To that end, the Council encouraged the President of Mozambique and the President of RENAMO to continue their direct talks.

By unanimously adopting resolution 863 (1993), the Council encouraged the international community to provide appropriate and prompt assistance for the implementation of the humanitarian programme carried out in the framework of the General Peace Agreement. It also urged the Government and RENAMO to continue to facilitate unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in need.

Reaffirming the importance it attached to the holding of elections no later than October 1994, the Council strongly urged both parties to agree to and apply the revised timetable for the implementation of all provisions of the Peace Agreement. It appealed to them to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General's Special Representative in that regard, and urged RENAMO and other political parties to join with the Government in quickly agreeing on an election law with provision for an effective national election commission.

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The peace process in Liberia poses a special opportunity for the United Nations, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said in a report dated 9 September that the proposed United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) would be the first peace-keeping operation the Organization had undertaken in cooperation with a peace-keeping mission already set up by another organization, in this case the Economic Community of West African States Military Observer Group (ECOMOG).

Given the tight timetable set by the Cotonou Peace Agreement between Liberia's conflicting parties, the Secretary-General said that it was crucial that there be clear understanding about the roles of the different groups involved. He expressed confidence, however, that with the good will of all concerned, the relationship would be successful and might even set a precedent for future peace-keeping missions.

The process leading towards elections, scheduled for February/March 1994, was already behind schedule, Mr. Boutros-Ghali noted. Further difficulties and uncertainties were likely to arise and the United Nations would be treading on fresh ground, but he was satisfied that the Organization must supplement the efforts of the Liberian people to establish peace in their country.

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Because of difficulties on the ground related to the application of the cease-fire Agreement signed by the Republic of Georgia and the forces in Abkhazia on 27 July, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Edouard Brunner, has decided to defer the beginning of peace negotiations in Geneva until later this month, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Last month, the Security Council month established the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to verify compliance with the Cease-fire Agreement, and asked the Secretary-General to pursue, through his Special Envoy, efforts to facilitate the peace process and political negotiations. UNOMIG will investigate reports of violations and attempt to resolve such incidents with the parties involved, and report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of its mandate.

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Soldiers of the United States Quick Reaction Force were attacked today by members of General Mohammed Farah Aideed's militia after completing a cordon-and-search operation in the vicinity of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) headquarters in Mogadishu, according to a United Nations spokesman. The attackers used small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and indiscriminate mortar fire from several locations, starting from the roof of a hospital.

Three American soldiers were injured in the attack, but their wounds were not life-threatening. The spokesman said that there had been some militia casualties, but no figures were available, and that there may have been some civilian casualties, given the nature of the militia firing.

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